

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventor: Yashushi YOKOMITSU et al.

Art Unit 2455

Appln. No.: 10/760,552

Exr. F. Hamza

Filed: January 21, 2004

Conf. No. 8634

For: SERVER THAT MANAGES ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR SERVERS
SUBORDINATE TO A RELAY (as amended)

SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

At the outset, the Applicants wish to thank the examiners for the courtesy shown to their representatives during a personal interview on October 12, 2010. This summary of the interview is provided to meet the requirements of MPEP § 713.04. The participants were Examiner F. Hamza, Tatsuo Uchida, and the undersigned. The issues and claims discussed were the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 14-16 and 18-20, under 35 USC §102(e), as anticipated by Asano (US 2003/0076830) and claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Asano (US 2003/0076830) in view of Belknap (US 6,763,377).

The Examiner indicated that new independent claims 21 and 22 may overcome the prior art of record. The undersigned agrees with the Examiner's Interview Summary dated October 18, 2010. A summary of the substance of the interview is included in the comments below.

It was noted that independent claims 1 and 18 were replaced by new independent claims 21 and 22 in the amendment filed August 13, 2010, and the dependent claims were amended to be consistent with the new independent claims 21 and 22.

The undersigned pointed out that the inventions of claims 21 and 22 solve a problem present in prior art systems such as related art Figs. 15 and 16, in which, when a terminal device, which is part of a wide area network such as the Internet 101, desires to access a server connected to one of the LAN ports of a relay device 102, the terminal device is impeded from access because the terminal device lacks information about which port number is assigned to which terminal on the LAN.

It was noted that, referring to illustrative Figs. 1 and 2 of the instant application, claim 21 provides a server apparatus 3a which is configured to be connected to one of the LAN ports of a relay apparatus 2 which has a WAN address, plural LAN ports and a port forwarding feature. The server apparatus 3a enables access from a terminal device 4 on the WAN to another server 3b on the LAN. The server apparatus 3a includes a port management controller 17a which receives a predetermined port number or another port number from the relay device 2 and registers the received port number. The predetermined port number corresponds to a representative server which enables the server apparatus 3a to acquire the WAN address of the relay device 2 and port number information of the at least one other server 3b and is then able to manage the port number information on the at least one other server 3b. That is, when the port management controller 17a receives the predetermined port number as the received port number, it is then enabled to, in response to an access from a terminal device 4 in the WAN, provide the terminal device 4 with the WAN address of the relay device 2 and the port number information

related to the at least one other server 3a. This enables the terminal device 4 to access server 3b connected to the LAN, thus overcoming the above-described prior art problem.

It was further noted that claim 22 calls for server apparatus 3a to acquire port assignment information on server 3b, to display information including the port assignment information relating to server 3b, and to transmit the display information in response to an access from terminal 4 in the WAN via relay 2.

It was noted that, in contrast to claims 21 and 22, Asano merely discloses a system which uses a NAT function, and a reference table which stores data of at least one IP address and at least one TCP or UDP port number before translation by the NAT function and at least one IP address and at least one TCP or UDP port number after the translation by the NAT function. It was noted that no PC in Asano provides an external device port number information related to another PC of the LAN. Belknap is not cited for anything related to the above-noted subject matter of Applicants' pending claims.

Accordingly, it was pointed out that even if the teachings of Asano and Belknapp were combined, the result still would lack the above-noted subject matter of Applicants' claims 21 and 22, and thus, the instant claims are not rendered obvious by these references.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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